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Variety is the spice of life for most youngsters today

What is different about young people today? Do they in fact differ that much from their elder brothers and sisters? They certainly seem to think so themselves.

"Young people today are head and shoulders above their predecessors," says Klaus, a sixteen-year-old schoolboy. "When grown-ups start going on about how things used to be, I invariably think how stupid they must have been. You wouldn't have caught me doing things like that."

And Doris, aged 17, reckons: "We are entirely different from young people twenty years ago. I would hate to have been around twenty years ago in the grim post-war years when people had entirely different problems, of course." Doris is a trainee white collar worker.

These two youngsters stand for many who make no bones about their rejection of traditional patterns of thought and hand-me-down modes of behaviour and conduct.

They are quoted in Jugendreport, a survey of attitudes among young people conducted by the Youth Research Institute, Munich, edited by Dr. Hermann Sand and Kurt H. Lanz and published by Adolf Bonz Verlag, Stuttgart, at 19.80 Deutschmarks.

The 220-page Youth Report summarises the conclusions of a number of surveys conducted among today's youngsters. Its compilers' stated aim is to supply new information about the younger generation and to help to contribute towards a better understanding of young people.

The report was commissioned both by government agencies and by private enterprise.

The Munich pollsters conducted their surveys in one of two ways. They held group discussions with six or eight youngsters in one age group. They also held in-depth interviews with individual youngsters.

In all, more than 1,500 interviews were conducted with fourteen- to 29-year-olds by random sample in each and every Bonn Bundestag constituency.

Yet the pollsters do not claim that their survey is in any way comprehensive. It may be based on random sample interviews held all over the country, but all they do claim is that it reveals basic patterns here and there.

"Not only views about young people

have changed; young people themselves are different," the Youth Report opines, but more in the manner of a breezy introduction to the subject than as a claim allegedly backed by empirical data.

On the whole young people are optimistic. Seventy-seven per cent of youngsters questioned reckoned variety was the spice of life.

As for the subjects that particularly interest young people, especially girls and young women, manufacturers of consumer goods will probably breathe a sigh of relief to learn that sex or politics no longer hold pride of place. All told, younger members of the female sex are mainly interested in fashion.

Forty-two per cent of sixteen- to 29-year-old girls and women consider the vagaries of fashion and the ups and downs of hemlines and the rag trade to be of prime importance.

The topics that come next in order of importance are education, with 35 per cent, furnishing, with thirty per cent, social issues, with 27 per cent, and politics, which commands a mere 21 per cent interest.

"I should like to have a good job and later to marry and have children," says fifteen-year-old Cordula, who still goes to school.

This is what most youngsters hope to get out of life: personal freedom, good money, satisfying work and a happy family life.

The revolutionary element is conspicuous by its absence, and as for the generation conflict, everyone admits that there is such a thing, but the overwhelming majority of young people reckons that the gap between the generations is not too wide to be bridged.

Ninety per cent of fourteen- to twenty-year-olds reckon bridges can be built and tend to feel sorry for their elders rather than aggressive towards them. "There is no changing them," children say of their parents with a shake of their heads, "so they will just have to stay as they are."

What this amounts to in practice is that young people, far from being rebellious, are prepared to agree with their elders for the sake of peace and quiet and in order to get on at work and keep the family reasonably happy.

This attitude certainly seems typical of today's youngsters, who while they are prepared to admit that they do not



Top of the class

Female auto mechanics are still rare birds in many countries and Petra, 17, is only the third girl in the Federal Republic of Germany successfully to complete her apprenticeship as a coachbuilder. She served two and a half years in her father's garage before taking her exams alongside 26 male apprentices - and coming top of the class. But she now plans to set her cap at further education with a view to becoming a trades college lecturer.

always agree with their parents and teachers and bosses are willing, in the final analysis, to come to terms even though they may not see eye to eye.

It seems only yesterday that young people were up in arms against elder persons. Take, for instance, the slogan: "Trust no one over thirty." So times surely have changed over the past ten or fifteen years.

Who is responsible for the change? Opinion leaders - a somewhat vague category. They can, of course, be individuals, and from all walks of life. One youngster in fourteen reckons he or she exercises influence on friends and acquaintances.

More often than not, however, opinions are led by the media. Young people are particularly avid consumers of radio, for instance. Surprisingly enough, however, they also attach a fair amount of importance to their daily paper.

Sixty-four per cent of the over-seventeens regularly read a daily newspaper.

Yet some of the assumptions on which the Youth Report is based come as more of an eye-opener, about the pollsters than about young people. "Work, unlike politics, is a topic that interests young people," the survey claims, for instance.

The Munich pollsters go on to list improvements in vocational training facilities, job safeguards and shopfloor participation in management as specific

issues that interest most young people very much.

Young people are not unduly interested in topics such as the relationship between management and the unions or entrepreneurial behaviour patterns, the survey adds. These, the authors maintain, are issues too abstract for youngsters to bother worrying about.

They then go on to explain why - unwittingly, perhaps. "Who would care to say whether the younger generation is going to come off best if it is allowed a say in its elders' debates on political theory?"

The pollsters would seem to suffer from a shortfall of theory themselves at this point. They could hardly have varied wider of the mark. If job selection and safeguards are not political issues what is?

If theoretical issues as outlined by the pollsters are regarded by most young people as too abstract, the reason could just possibly be that not the subject matter but the choice of words was to blame.

"Can everyone in this country make it to the job he or she wants by dint of hard work?" the youngsters were asked. Forty-five per cent said yes, 55 per cent no.

The majority of those who felt this was not the case also reckon it is high time something was done about it. Wolf Schellert (Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 July 1977)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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MBFR talks have proved their worth



The twelfth round of MBFR talks in Vienna has adjourned for its summer recess. The troop cut talks have been in progress for four years now.

For over a year Nato delegations have tried to induce the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the GDR to discuss why Western estimates of Warsaw Pact troop strength in the countries concerned differ so substantially from the figure claimed by the Kremlin.

Western sources estimate the manpower of land forces stationed in the GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia to total 962,000, whereas the Soviet Union reckons the true figure is 791,000.

The Soviet figure is only marginally higher than the 805,000 men stationed in this country, Belgium and Holland - Western countries in which troop cuts are envisaged.

The West, however, reckons that the East bloc has 171,000 more troops stationed in its sector of Central Europe than Nato in its corresponding sector.

The Bonn government is known to be

equal security for both sides and collective defence of the West."

It is, perhaps, worth noting that Helmut Schmidt refers to parity and equal security on an East-West basis, but to the collective principle solely with regard to Nato.

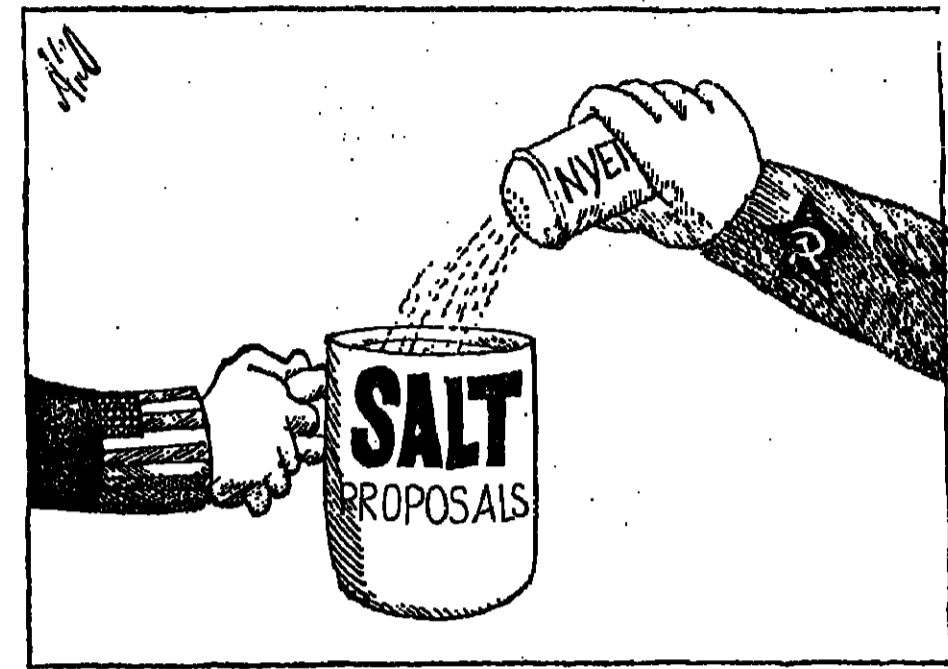
What is more, the Foreign Office is on record as stating that symbolic cuts are out of the question. So the government evidently has no intention of acting on Willy Brandt's recommendation of last winter to start with symbolic cuts as a prelude to cuts in national armed forces.

Indeed, the West is only prepared to negotiate collective ceilings to its armed forces, leaving the size of national armed forces to be decided by Nato within whatever overall limits are agreed and not on the basis of any commitment undertaken towards the Soviet Union.

Herr Schmidt is determined to ensure that the Soviet Union is not entitled by the terms of troop cut agreements to any kind of say in the minutiae of Nato arrangements.

He also refers to parity and equal security, meaning that the West's objective at the Vienna troop cut talks will continue to be a reduction of troop strengths in Central Europe in such a way as to ensure that US, Soviet and national armed forces in the countries concerned will eventually total 700,000 on each side as currently envisaged by the West.

So where parity and collective prin-



(Cartoon: Candea/Rheinischo Post)

ciples are concerned, Bonn's latest proposals constitute nothing basically new.

Contrary to the impression the MBFR talks may have conveyed, conferences of this kind are more than a mere attempt to negotiate terms of reference for troop strength, firepower, training facilities and geostrategic considerations with a view to agreeing on cuts.

The principal objective is a political consideration: agreement on certain principles of security and order so as to keep the East-West conflict manageable.

Mutual renunciation of the use of force is to be underpinned by a voluntary renunciation of the wherewithal with which supremacy might be exercised. This would constitute a measure of political détente.

Thus parity is not just important in a

quantitative, military context; it also has political ramifications. It is a matter of accepting the presence and existence of the adversary and accepting, in lieu of peace, at least an armistice as a permanent condition of world affairs.

To what extent does the Soviet Union appreciate either the justification of this Western demand or the West's determination to see it accepted?

For years Russia refused to see the point, insisting on troop cuts that ensured continued Soviet predominance. Suddenly, last summer, Mr Brezhnev changed the Soviet tune.

He published East bloc figures purporting to show that troop strengths in Central Europe are virtually equal and claimed that approximate parity was already established.

May we take this to mean that the Soviet Union has at least accepted the principle of parity? This alone would be at least partial progress, although an explanation of the missing 170,000 men is still not forthcoming.

Have the Vienna talks been worthwhile from the West's point of view? Are they worth continuing? The answer to these questions is not necessarily to be found in Vienna.

The MBFR talks have certainly proved useful to Nato, putting paid to what, only a few years ago, was the imminent risk of unilateral troop cuts by Nato countries.

US Congressional opinion is no longer hell-bent on pulling US troops out of Europe, and public opinion in other European countries is no longer as insistent on troop cuts as it once was.

It is the Vienna talks were to have accomplished no more than to forestall the unilateral withdrawal of a single brigade the diplomats' expenses would have been money well spent.

Whether or not the final outcome is greater security for both sides remains to be seen, but if it does so it will have been by means of insistence on both parity and the collective principle.

Günter Glimmer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 28 July 1977)

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discussing with its allies the possibility of a new political move aimed at bringing the MBFR talks to an initial conclusion.

An outcome of some kind or other in Vienna is felt to be particularly desirable now that the Salt talks are unlikely to come to further fruition for some time.

Bonn has no intention of departing from agreed Nato policy, however. Chancellor Schmidt stipulated negotiations "on the basis of East-West parity,

Friderichs: Closer ties with Japan

Bonn and Tokyo plan to intensify and institutionalise their economic policy ties, Economic Affairs Minister Hans Friderichs announced in Frankfurt on his return from a two-week tour of Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

Regular meetings will, he stated, be held at senior civil servant level. Herr Friderichs was particularly gratified to be able to report this progress because, as he noted, ties with Japan are "slightly underdeveloped" in comparison with the close links within the European Community and with the United States.

Referring to Japan's periodic tendency to be somewhat aggressive in its export policies and to the subsequent inclination on the part of European countries to ward off Japanese exports by resorting to protectionist measures, Herr Friderichs reckoned he had succeeded in impressing on his Japanese hosts that they share responsibility for the free world trade they advocate and ought not to upset the boat and provide others with an opportunity of resorting to protectionism.

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panese government is willing to step up imports and called on firms in this country to pay greater attention to the Japanese market. Household equipment and high-grade furniture ought, he noted, to sell well in Japan.

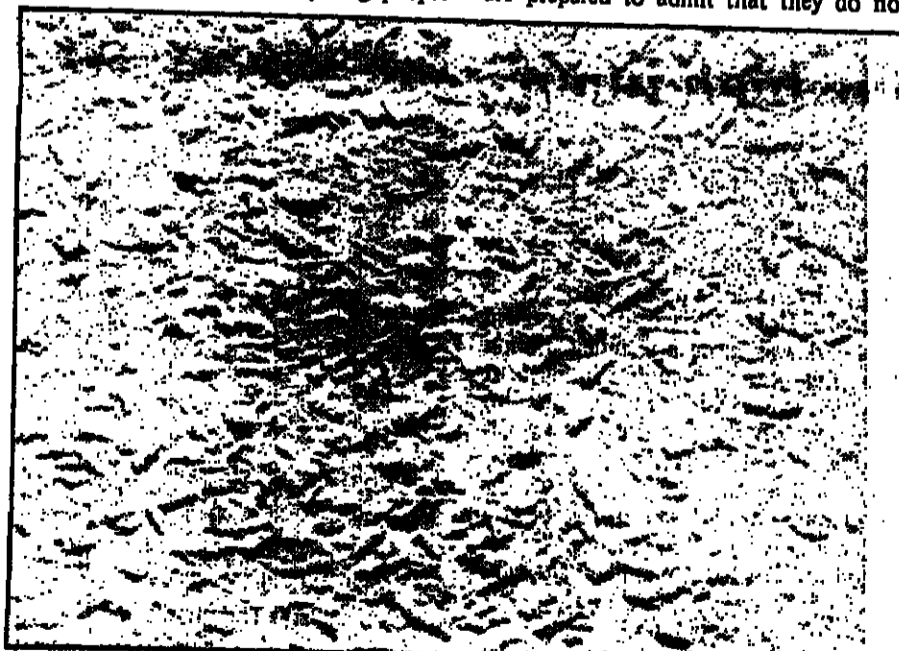
The Minister expressed satisfaction with the course of his energy talks in Australia, which is an interesting prospective partner for this country in view of its proven deposits of uranium ore.

He reckoned to have outlined clearly this country's viewpoint and to be "not dissatisfied" with the outcome.

He did not mention a direct link between uranium supplies and Australia's talks with the EEC, which are due to begin in October. Australia, Herr Friderichs noted, is keen to improve its access to the Common Market, and this issue is regarded as a major one there.

dpa (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 August 1977)

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Advertisement for 'rauhfina wall-papers' by HEINRICH GELDMACHER. The ad features a logo with a stylized 'G' and a spiral, followed by the brand name 'rauhfina' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it, 'wall-papers' is written in a slightly smaller font. The text 'from HEINRICH GELDMACHER' is prominently displayed, followed by 'Papierfabriken'. At the bottom, the address '5223 NÜMBRECHT-WINTERBORN (W. Germany)' and phone/telex numbers are provided.

EEC

Spectre of protectionism alarms Common Market chiefs

The EEC Commission in Brussels recently took a spectacular step towards a protectionist foreign trade policy. Textile imports from Spain and eight developing countries are to be drastically curtailed in the second half of this year.

The Commission saw itself "forced" to arrive at this decision — this has been confirmed by unofficial circles in Brussels — because last June Paris imposed unilateral and illegal national import barriers for the abovementioned nine countries.

The Commission lacked the courage to take a stand against this violation of the EEC Treaty. Instead, the Community absorbed some of the domestic pressure in France by imposing "communal" import restrictions.

Of course, the EEC import restrictions are less stringent than those originally imposed by France.

Based on the protection clause in Article 19 of GATT, the EEC is entitled to impose restrictions in case of an emergency. And for some this state of emergency evidently seems to exist since the Community's own 1976 textile production failed to reach the level of the previous year 1973.

A total of 3,500 textile companies were forced to shut down between 1973 and 1976, and this entailed the loss of 500,000 jobs — primarily in economically weak regions.

It is however known that Washington disapproves of the Commission's latest measure because the American Government itself is fighting with its back to the wall against protectionist trends in the United States.

Washington has a hard time preventing US court rulings by which local steel mills and other branches of industry would like to impose additional customs levies on imports from EEC countries.

The whole thing has been triggered by the Community's practice of reimbursing VAT to exporters. According to US industry this is an impermissible subsidy for exports, and US courts tend to agree on the basis of the Trade Act dating back to the last century.

The recent measure will also tarnish the Community's image in the Third World.

Since the introduction by the Nine of the General Trade Preferences for Developing Nations in 1971 (the EEC was thus the first major industrial power to do so) in order to promote industrialisation in the Third World by facilitating its exports to Europe's mammoth market, the Community has been held in high esteem.

This esteem was even heightened by the Community's cooperation agreements with the Arab countries along the Mediterranean seaboard and by the Lomé Convention encompassing 44 African, Pacific and Caribbean states.

The EEC was thus prepared to throw its market wide open while at the same time gaining export orders by helping to industrialise the Third World. At that time France was one of the strongest proponents of such a policy.

But now there is a trend towards protectionism in France which — like any fad — could very well be emulated by the Community's other members.

According to M. Coyac, the president

of the French Employers Association (CNPF), major changes in the global economy have rendered the dogma of free trade obsolete.

And although the demand for protectionism has not yet been voiced openly, there is nevertheless talk in Paris of building up defences against "wildcat imports", and some branches of industry in other EEC countries support this trend.

The French Association of Cellulose, Paper and Cardboard Industry (CEPAC) recently demanded "temporary protective measures" for Europe's paper industry both internally and externally.

The recommendation goes on to say that the Tokyo Round of GATT should strive to preserve the present high standard of free trade rather than concern itself with the further removal of trade barriers.

But whenever the other European members of the same branch of industry fail to pay sufficient heed to French wishes they resort to more stringent measures.

Jacques Ferry, the spokesman of France's steel industry, for instance, is dissatisfied with last spring's EEC Commission measures aimed at controlling prices and quotas on the EEC steel market.

As a result he quite openly threatens the Commission, saying that France has national imperatives — and that not only in the sectors of investment, growth, prices and jobs, but also in foreign trade relations. And this cannot but hit an exposed nerve of the EEC Tariff Union.

Prime Minister Raymond Barre, formerly an EEC Commissioner, issued a warning to the hotheds. He pointed out that France, as the world's fourth largest export nation, could not contemplate abolishing its policy of open borders.

This warning was issued only a few days before Paris decided to go it alone. The EEC Commission was thus forced to point out to its former member, M. Barre, that only the EEC as a whole rather than an individual member state can resort to Article 19 of GATT.

Protests were also raised by the German Textile Manufacturers' Association — not against the French protectionist tendencies as such, but because France has anticipated joint trade policy measures of the EEC, thus once more distorting internal competition structures within the Community.

France's objective are best demonstrated by the list of demands which the Gaullists in the Parliament of Europe recently presented.

These demands encompass among other things additional tariffs for im-

ports from low-wage countries in order to prevent "social dumping", automatic application of GATT's protective clause whenever imports of certain goods capture too large a share of the EEC market, certificates of origin for the Community market as well, and complete redrafting of the EEC Commission's negotiating authority at the Tokyo Round of GATT which is to reach its decisive phase in the autumn.

Moreover, the Gaullists point out that "unless swift and fundamental decisions" are made France would have to resort to national measures. The majority of the Parliament of Europe still refuses to deal with the Gaullist motion.

Under pressure from French business and the trade unions, President Giscard d'Estaing only reluctantly approved of the avowal of the seven heads of government at the London Summit in May in which they said: "We reject protectionism because it would promote unemployment, increase inflation and undermine the affluence of our peoples."

But even so, Giscard d'Estaing managed to get the following sentence included in the communiqué: "Structural changes in the world's economy must be taken into account."

At the EEC round in London at the end of June Giscard d'Estaing originally fought for a more clear departure from the free trade principle.

But all that remained in the communiqué was a passage aimed at the Gaullists, showing that he hat at least tried to bring about more protectionism. The passage reads: "The Council of Europe has also dealt with the effects on the employment situation of the free trade policy of the Community as the world's largest importer and exporter."

The other EEC countries are not yet overtly prepared to follow the French trend towards protectionism. But the Brussels Commission is very well aware of the danger that would arise if Paris were to violate Community regulations more and more frequently in order to let off steam prior to next spring's elections.

Brussels has for some time been pondering the effects of a free trade policy. As the world's largest exporter, the EEC must beware of providing other countries — above all other industrialised nations, the free trade partners in EFTA and the United States, Canada and Japan — with a pretext for protectionist measures on their part.

As a result, the OECD has pledged annually since 1974 that it would preserve free trade — although GATT and numerous other agreements oblige it to do so anyway.

The recession is responsible for the danger of reverting to the protectionism

of the thirties, as an EEC official put it.

In talks with Tokyo, the greatest competitor among the exporting industrialised nations, Washington and Brussels have been trying to confine the problem by talking Japan into voluntarily restricting its exports. This is in fact protectionism by other means.

The Multi-Fibre Textile Agreement, which is due to be renewed now within the framework of GATT, amounts to the same thing.

Essentially, EEC textile imports from the Mediterranean countries have risen so steeply because the Far Eastern and other textile-producing countries had had to put the brakes on their export expansion due to bilateral treaties within the framework of the Multi-Fibre Agreement.

France's astute EEC Trade Commissioner, Claude Cheysson, is well aware of the fact that the EEC cannot afford to create the impression in the Third World that it is closing its doors. After all, 36 per cent of the Community's exports go to developing nations — which is three times as much as the EEC sells to the United States — and the trend is still rising, argues M Cheysson.

As a result, M Cheysson does not want to reduce the general trade preferences for the developing nations, although he wants to shift the advantages.

In the new round of multi-fibre negotiations which have just begun, Brussels is pressing for a stop to further increases of preferences for the traditional textile exporting countries and for an increase of quotas for other developing nations.

According to M Cheysson, the EEC should also generously participate in a financial "Marshall Plan" for the Third World. But such funds should not be used to build up additional export industries. Instead, they should promote measures that would boost the domestic markets of the countries concerned.

Many branches of industry in the EEC would thus receive a shot in the arm by additional demand from the developing nations. This would affect primarily mechanical engineering, the steel industry and many of their suppliers.

Given swift action, the impetus imparted by orders from the Third World would be the best means of alleviating protectionist trends, said M Cheysson.

At the same time, Brussels is now trying to make better use of its own funds. Instead of pouring out money for its regional policy — and the same applies for the EEC Social Fund — programmes for structural changes are to receive priority in the future.

Where jobs in the textile or the steel industry are in jeopardy, investments made in good time are to promote other branches of industry.

But all these plans will come too late if the latest protectionist measure of the Commission triggers a chain reaction. The accusation that planning should have started earlier can be levelled at the individual EEC governments as much as it can be levelled at Brussels.

In 1974, it was hoped that the upswing would come towards the end of 1975, and in 1976 hopes were pinned on 1977. Alas, the faith in the recuperative market powers was too great.

Unless business takes an energetic stand against those in its own ranks who call for protectionism, it will soon be faced with the end of its freedom.

But first of all it must be decided who is to stop the French. If Paris resorts to protectionist measures, in a number of other instances, Britain is likely to follow suit; and a chain reaction will be inevitable.

Erich Hauser
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 July 1977)

ECONOMICS

Strong deutschmark plus weak dollar threatens Euro-exports



Parisians were reminded of the German occupation during the war when the French newspaper *Le Nouveau Journal* came up with a novelty in the form of the German-language headline "Deutsche Mark über alles". The headline was intended to pay tribute to the currency of the former arch-enemy and today's partner in the EEC of the *Grande Nation*.

In Paris the star currency cost 213 francs for 100 deutschmarks or — to put it the other way around — 100 francs cost the German only DM46.95. Never before had the French franc dropped to such a low level vis-a-vis the deutschmark.

But not only on the Continent was the deutschmark the star of the season. Michael Blumenthal, the German-descent US Secretary of the Treasury, has for some time been dissatisfied with Bonn's economic policy.

Contrary to the agreement to pursue a course of stability which the seven heads of state and government reached at the London Summit in May, Mr Blumenthal persuaded his fellow ministers of the OECD to exert pressure on the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Holland and Switzerland to induce them to pursue a more active economic policy.

In an interview with *Handelsblatt*, Mr Blumenthal said that "the last months have shown that some countries — and not only the Federal Republic of Germany — are lagging behind their growth targets."

On the eve of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's visit to Jimmy Carter, Mr Blumenthal let it be known in New York that the White House would promote an even further weakening of the dollar vis-a-vis the strong deutschmark. The already weak dollar was perfectly in keeping with the American concept.

Mr Blumenthal and his economic strategists hoped that a cheaper dollar would make American goods more competitive on world markets — at the expense of the deutschmark.

The US Secretary of the Treasury fears that 1977 will see his country with a trade deficit of DM25,000 million, which he hopes to reduce by stepped-up exports. He reproachfully points to the fact that the suspected 12,000 million dollar deficit in the US balance of payments is matched by an equally high surplus for the German, Japanese, Dutch and Swiss.

The foreign exchange markets on both sides of the Atlantic reacted to the signal from Washington. A world-wide flight from the dollar into the deutschmark set in. The Bundesbank (the country's Central Bank) did all in its power to prevent or at least put the brakes on a further downward slide of the dollar.

But there was no stopping the fall. On 13 July, the day when Chancellor Schmidt arrived at the White House, the dollar dropped to DM2.2793 in Frankfurt. And on 19 July it reached a startling low of DM2.2628 — even below the

vis-a-vis the dollar has risen by 14.6 per cent since the end of 1975, vis-a-vis the Snake currencies by 4.8 per cent and on a global scale by 18.6 per cent.

Confronted with realities, Mr Blumenthal agreed in an impromptu discussion with Chancellor Schmidt to take this contribution on the part of Germany into account.

But the international foreign exchange markets evidently have little faith in this truce between Blumenthal and Schmidt.

Although the dollar made a slight recovery following Chancellor Schmidt's talks at the White House, considerable importance is attributed to a statement by Wilfried Guth, spokesman of Deutsche Bank, according to whom Washington is building up a new line of resistance for the dollar.

In Herr Guth's opinion, this line of resistance could be set at DM2.25 per dollar — which is lower than the official dollar rate on foreign exchange markets ever and lower than the dollar was immediately after the Washington talks.

The fact that not only the major trading nations are using monetary policy as an instrument with which to stimulate exports and the economy as a whole was recently borne out by Spain.

In order to cope with its economic problems, the Spanish Government devalued the peseta vis-a-vis the US dollar by 19.9 per cent. On the German foreign exchange markets the peseta, which is not part of the Snake and floats freely, was traded at the devalued rate of somewhat over 20 per cent.

The economic policy makers in Madrid, however, could easily forfeit the advantages of the devaluation to Spanish exports unless they introduce stringent domestic measures aimed at price stability. For a country as dependent on raw materials imports as Spain, the higher cost of imports could easily trigger new inflationary trends.

Spain as an El Dorado for German vacationers as a result of the peseta devaluation could easily prove a mirage. Although nominally (figured by prices prior to the devaluation) one deutschmark is worth DM1.34 in Spain, vacationers report a lightning reaction on the part of clever hoteliers and restaurant owners. Some hotels and restaurants are said to have raised their prices by close to 20 per cent.

The promised cheap winter vacation in the Canaries or the cheap summer vacation in Mallorca, promised to German tourists for 1978, could come to nought as the result of inflation.

Dietrich Zwilz
(Deutsche Zeitung, 22 July 1977)

Four per cent growth rate likely this year

Professor Olaf Sievert, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, considers a slight acceleration of the upswing in the second half of 1977 likely.

In an interview with *dpa* he stressed that, following a probable growth of a mere 3.5 per cent over the previous year in the first half of 1977, production is likely to increase by about 4.5 per cent in the second half of the year, "making it realistic" to "anticipate an overall growth of 4 per cent for 1977 as a whole."

Although Professor Sievert, too, is disappointed about this year's economic development, there is nevertheless no spectacular departure from last year's forecast for 1977. The Council of Economic Advisers had originally anticipated a 4.5 per cent growth for 1977.

Professor Sievert called on our financial policy makers to display more courage in implementing economic booster measures.

According to him, the major problem is still the unsatisfactory investment ac-

DIE WELT

tivity on the part of business. Although business has stepped up its investments, this is not yet enough to provide an adequate shot in the arm and falls considerably short of the investment necessary, to create the many jobs that will be needed in the next few years.

According to Professor Sievert the measures implemented so far by Bonn and the individual states are not enough of a stimulus for private investment.

The DM16,000 million programme for future investments will initially do little to change the present employment situation. The tax package which has meanwhile been passed is, according to Professor Sievert, a "small step towards a more growth-oriented taxation system."

Professor Sievert again called for better depreciation write-offs.

In order to reduce unemployment, economic policy should strive for a 5 per cent growth target in 1978. Unfortunately, says Professor Sievert, the necessary preconditions for such a growth rate have not yet been created.

dpa
(Die Welt, 20 July 1977)

Friedrichs calls for an expert review of the economy

Minister of Economic Affairs Hans-Joachim Friedrichs has asked the Council of Economic Advisers to review a number of economic and labour market policy problems.

The focal point of Herr Friedrichs' request is the question whether further economic booster measures are necessary. At the same time, Herr Friedrichs would like to have the labour market measures aimed at providing new jobs, which are at present under discussion, reviewed.

It is considered possible in Bonn that the Council will deal with these questions in the form of a special study to be released in the autumn rather than in its annual report due in November.

A total of eight issues have been put up for discussion by Herr Friedrichs. Above all, however, he would like to know why the actual development of

the economy and the labour market in 1977 is not in keeping with the Council's forecast and how the so-called "Five Wise Men" assess the development of the labour market for the rest of the year.

Moreover, Herr Friedrichs' letter calls for an answer to the question which of the publicly discussed measures primarily for

the creation of additional jobs, or the establishment of a balance between the supply of and demand for la-

the reduction of available labour, or improvements in the labour exchange and

increased individual incentives to take up work are considered particularly suited to cope with unemployment in the short term.

Herr Friedrichs would also like to know whether investments are concentrated in the construction sector and if the Council is examining the question as to what extent such the energy and environment discussion has affected investment attitudes.

Concerning fiscal matters, the Five Wise Men have been asked to examine whether the turnover tax reform will have a positive effect on the investment attitudes of certain regional corporations.

Peter J. Velle
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 22 July 1977)

CRISIS SYMPTOMS

	1973	1974	1975	1976	May 1977
Unemployment in EEC in per cent	2.6	2.9	4.4	5.0	5.1
Inflation rate; increase in consumer price index over previous year	8.2	13.0	13.4	11.0	
Balance of trade deficit (EEC as a whole vis-a-vis foreign countries in million dollars)	4,692	20,549	4,504		
Unemployment in per cent					
USA: 1970-1974: 5.6 1975: 8.5 1976: 7.7					
Japan: 1970-1974: 1.3 1975: 1.9 1976: 2.0					

Japan co 156

MOTORIZING

Psychological tests can help errant drivers keep their licences

German driving licences are not endorsed. Offences penalised with a fine of more than forty deutschmarks are reported to a central registry office in Flensburg where drivers are awarded black marks in accordance with the seriousness of the offence.

Eighteen penalty points in Flensburg mean an automatic driving ban regardless whether you have notched up seven black marks at a time for hit-and-run driving or being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle or, somewhat unfairly as most motorists would feel, have merely accumulated occasional black marks as a result of radar speed checks.

The "black marks" system has only been in operation in its present form for a few years and already there are hundreds of thousands of motorists on the borderline of a driving ban.

Their black marks are expunged from the registry if they manage to maintain a clean record for two uninterrupted years, but two years is a long time to remain on tenterhooks, especially if you drive for a living.

So ways and means of making the scheme a little more flexible are frequently suggested, and one of the methods already in use is a medical and psychological test to help the authorities decide whether or not an offender really deserves to forfeit his licence.

"We are not a bunch of sadists who descend on unsuspecting motorists like vultures, you know," says psychiatrist and neurologist Rudolf Gienapp, head of the TÜV Medico-Psychological Institute in Hamburg, which conducts tests of this kind.

Dr Gienapp is keen to explain how his institute works, but sensitive to the criticism not infrequently levelled by irate motorists. His customers are, of course, mostly motorists referred for a medical and psychological check after a brush or two with the law.

They may have accumulated the ominous eighteen black marks at Flensburg. Occasionally, however, they are seventeen-year-olds who apply for a driving licence early for one reason or another. If they pass the test they may be allowed to take the conventional driving test about which nothing more need be said.

Whatever the reason, people taking a test of this kind obviously feel somewhat uneasy. "We are obviously well aware of the fact," says Dr Gienapp,

"and the series of tests to which we submit people referred to us can take up to five hours, which is undeniably a fair length of time.

"But we do not aim to make mince-meat of an executioner's axe. We are merely required to submit an expert opinion. It is up to the authorities to decide what action to take."

Last year 97,310 medical and psychological reports were commissioned by licensing authorities in the Federal Republic of Germany from Dr Gienapp and his associates in Hamburg and similar institutes in other parts of the country. Roughly half this total were motorists with a traffic offence record in the Flensburg files, and 28,000 had been brought to book for drunken driving.

"When someone commits a really serious traffic offence or appears to be a persistent offender," Dr Gienapp points out, "it seems fair to assume that he or she might not be cut out for driving a motor vehicle.

"But we do not aim to make mince-meat of our customers. After all, there could have been good and valid reasons why they were driving under the influence of drink. They may have felt obliged to take to the wheel in exceptional circumstances even though they were unlikely to pass the breathalyser test."

Qualified medical practitioners and psychologists conduct the tests. The medical test physical functions such as reflexes. They take the examinee's blood pressure in specified stress situations.

The psychologists, on the other hand, set out to determine whether or not the examinee is willing and able to behave in a suitable manner at the wheel of a motor vehicle.

"Let us assume," says Dr Gienapp, "that the examinee is a managing director. His reflexes are first-rate and his IQ is above average. Yet he may still be a menace on the roads because he invariably feels he is a cut above other road-users and drives dangerously.

"This is the kind of motorist who is personally convinced that he always has the right of way. He belongs to the category of *unwilling* motorists — and there are plenty of them about."

Persistent offenders cause the most trouble both at Dr Gienapp's institute in Hamburg and at other medical and psychological centres around the country (there is at least one in every state).

A distinction is made between offences committed "under the influence" and offences committed when the miscreant is stone-cold sober.

Offenders who have notched up their eighteen black marks in Flensburg by no means invariably have a record of drunken or hit-and-run driving, which can mean up to seven black marks at one fell swoop. Often enough seemingly minor offences just accumulate.

Take, for instance, the motorist who lets his engine warm up every morning by stepping on the accelerator pedal for minutes on end. Sooner or later his neighbours report him to the police for making unnecessary noise.

This is an offence that counts for more than a mere parking ticket. It means a black mark in his Flensburg file. So does opening his car door carelessly and endangering another road-user. So may a tell-tale trail of foul exhaust fumes if the offender is brought to book.

Helga Heimann, a psychologist who is deputy head of the Hamburg institute, is mainly concerned with the form questions may take.

"We used to work on the assumption that an examinee with eighteen black marks in Flensburg deserved to forfeit his licence and that we were merely required to confirm his or her unsuitability to hold a driving licence, as it were," Frau Heimann explains.

"Nowadays reports are increasingly commissioned because the authorities themselves are far from convinced that each and every motorist with eighteen points in his Flensburg file is fundamentally not cut out to drive a motor vehicle."

The psychological question and answer session is an important part of the full test. The Hamburg institute made tabloid newspaper headlines when it was reported to fail an examinee who answered in the affirmative when asked whether he or she enjoyed porn.

"Sex queries form no part of either written or verbal queries as far as we are concerned," Rudolf Gienapp claims, "except, say, in cases where the examinee is a sex offender who uses his car on the job, as it were. But this is very rarely the case."

Alcohol puts in a far more frequent appearance. A conviction for drunken driving means seven black marks. A

subsequent conviction within two years makes an automatic driving ban a virtual certainty regardless whether or not the court may decide to impose a ban.

Women drivers appear to be more careful than men. Far fewer women drivers than men have a Flensburg "record" even in relation to the respective number of male and female licence-holders.

"Women are more careful and cooperative in traffic," Dr Gienapp claims. "But when women overstep the mark they usually do so with a vengeance, not just taking the highway code into their own hands, so to speak, but also in drinking one over the eight."

The Flensburg record office employs staff of 11,050, including 250 clerks in the traffic offences department who service the files of 4.6 million motorists with a record of traffic offences.

The medical and psychological tests cost the examinee a maximum of 20 deutschmarks plus VAT. A slight test may also be required. It costs 96 deutschmarks.

"It is not much when you consider what medical practitioners normally charge for services of this kind," says Dr Gienapp. "What is more, the charges do not cover expenses by any stretch of the imagination."

"Opinions may differ about details of the form tests take, but I do feel the test is necessary, particularly for young people who have notched up eighteen black marks and feel hard done by."

But traffic offenders account for only half the "customers" referred to Dr Gienapp and his associates year by year. There is, for instance, the seventeen-year-old son of a haulage contractor who applies for a driving licence because his father has suddenly died.

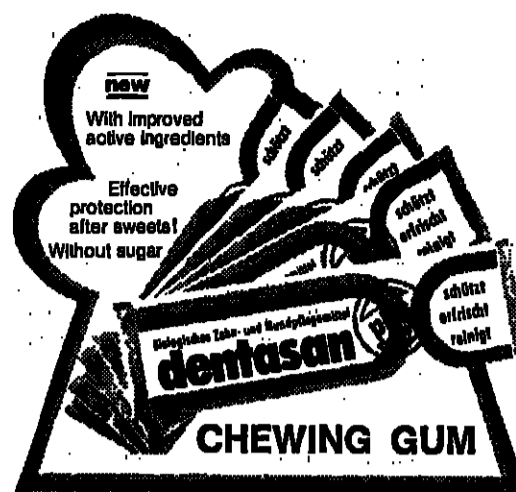
The Bundeswehr commissions reports on driving instructors, and in Hamburg, taxi and bus drivers are also put through their paces at the institute. So are learner-drivers who have failed the conventional driving-test three times.

"There can be any number of reasons why learner-drivers fail to make the grade," Rudolf Gienapp says. "We try to find out why — and whether it is worth their while trying for a fourth time."

The reasons can be trifling; a learner may just not be able to stand the sight of his driving instructor. The instructor may, for that matter, be a dismal teacher.

But Rudolf Gienapp refuses to be drawn on the prowess of driving instructors. "They are not referred to us," he says, "unless a special request is submitted by their association. But this has yet to happen in Hamburg, so we are not in a position to give a considered opinion on the subject."

Gerhard Seehase
(Die Zeit, 29 July 1977)



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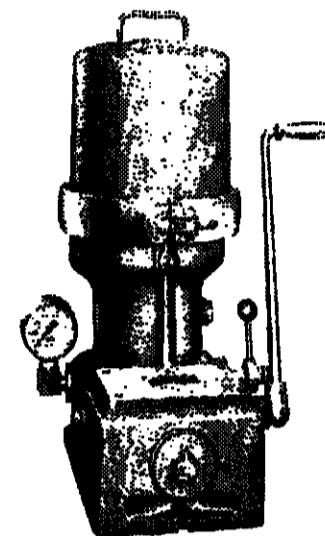
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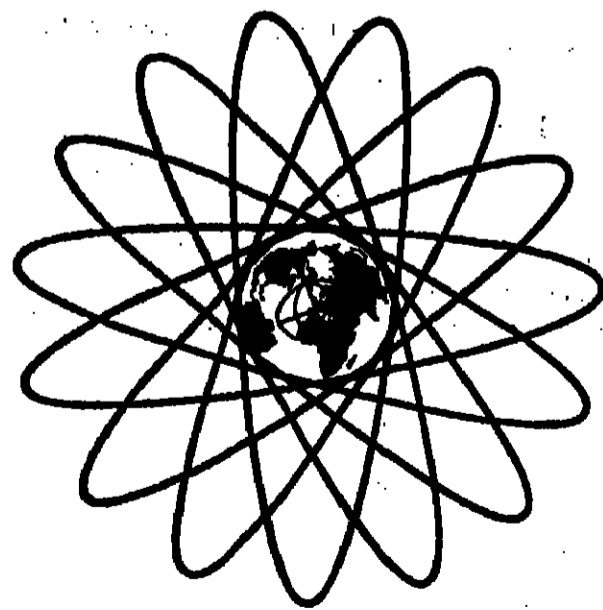
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■ MEDICINE

Antibiotics no help against nose and throat infections, doctor tells congress

Professor Wolf Dietrich Germer of Berlin has described the practice, common among many doctors, of prescribing antibiotics for colds and influenza as "dangerous." This was the course recommended in numerous medical textbooks, but advances in medical science and particularly in diagnosis meant that it was now out of date.

Dr Germer, speaking recently at the 29th German congress for medical education, in Berlin, gave the following reason for his criticism: "Acute nose and throat infections are caused in 95 per cent of all cases by viruses." Antibiotics, however, were a completely useless method of combating viruses.

When nose and throat infections were caused by viruses, it was not just a matter of antibiotics not helping. In some cases the doctor would be damaging his patient's health by prescribing them. These antibiotics could provoke allergies which in turn lead to a fatal shock-effect.

Furthermore, the use of antibiotics could lead to bacteria becoming resistant. In the event of the patient later suffering from an acute bacterial infection, these antibiotics would not have the desired therapeutic effect.

It was now possible to diagnose infections of nose and throat caused by viruses by using the so-called immunofluorescence method. Dr Germer described this as the "decisive diagnostic breakthrough of the past few years."

He called on doctors to use this method in future whenever they came across cases of coughing, hoarseness and nose-colds. This would mean sending throat smears and phlegm for analysis. Most large German towns had virus laboratories where this kind of analysis could be done.

Dr. Walter Höpken of Hannover stressed that nose and throat infections were "by far the most common infections." He thought it was an oversimplification simply to talk of "colds" in this context when what was meant was a whole range of illnesses from influenza to pneumonia and bronchitis.

Give incurables the right to die, say most people

The majority of people in this country want incurable patients to have the right to die. This is the result of a poll conducted by the Allensbach Institute for Demoscopy.

According to this poll, three out of four Germans are against doctors using every possible means at their disposal to prolong an incurably ill patient's life.

Three quarters of the population would also wish doctors to cut off oxygen to patients who have no real chance of ever regaining consciousness. There was no majority for artificially prolonging life in any age group or in any section of the population.

Seventy-seven per cent were against prolonging life at all costs. Fourteen per cent were for it, and nine per cent gave no opinion.

Fifty five per cent were for euthanasia, twenty nine per cent were against it and sixteen per cent were "undecided." *dsp*
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 21 July 1977)

A third of all working days lost through illness and two thirds to three quarters of all absences from school were the result of these illnesses. This fact at the same time made it clear that children were more susceptible to these illnesses. Even among adults, though, one person in every five went to the doctor every year with an infection of this kind.

There are always difficulties involved in treating viral nose and throat infections, as Dr Germer and his Karlsruhe colleague Professor Oskar Vivell pointed out. There was still no medicine which could kill all kinds of viruses.

Interferon, a substance which the body itself produces to fight viruses, had not yet lived up to the hopes which had been put in it. This was because obtaining this substance and using it on a large scale was still prohibitively expensive.

Nonetheless both doctors pointed out that there was a possibility of preventing and treating a number of viral infections. Anti-influenza injections had proved successful.

Chemical means of treating illnesses caused by herpes viruses had been developed, and other viruses could be treated immunologically, i.e., by giving blood serum from people who were immune to the viruses. All this helped to prevent the worst.

Tuberculosis, previously so rampant especially in times of hardship, was still a grave danger, as doctors found out in another series of lectures at the congress.

This is still the most common of all infectious diseases which have to be reported in Germany. This point was made by Professor Karl L. Radenbach of the Heckeshorn lung clinic in Berlin.

He also warned of the danger that this disease "could be too easily forgotten and not recognised in time, as most doctors seldom encounter a case of tuberculosis these days."

The consequence of this was, in the words of Professor Gerhard Neumann of the Stuttgart Health Office, that "wrong diagnoses happen more frequently."

He did not believe that tuberculosis could be eradicated in the foreseeable future. The reason: "The practical successes of the basically highly effective

chemo-therapy still lag far behind what is theoretically possible."

Lung x-rays have for some time been an inadequate method of discovering tuberculosis.

In the words of Dr. Hans Joachim Brandt of Berlin "this realisation means that we must intensify our search for tubercular bacteria, right from the beginning of chemo-therapy. We will also have to be more aggressive in our methods and use endoscopy and biopsy," i.e. taking live tissue from the lungs.

It could only be proved that a patient had tuberculosis after a biopsy had been performed. Even this method was frequently misleading and the only sure way of establishing this was to make tubercules grow on a patient's cell culture. Radenbach therefore warned general practitioners to be very careful when diagnosing potential T.B. cases.

If the patient were subjected to treatment on the mere suspicion that he might have tuberculosis this could have a serious effect on the patient's health in view of the nine-to-twelve-month, highly controversial antibiotic therapy.

Professor Heinrich Jungblut of Gießen mentioned allergic reactions, damage to the liver, stomach and intestinal disorders and disorders of the central nervous system of the brain as possible consequences of treatment.

Dr Hans Hussels of Berlin stressed that it was essential to establish before treatment began whether the bacteria could be killed by one of the three antibiotics normally used. It was also important to determine whether the patient was allergic to these antibiotics.

The number of antibiotics which could be used is extremely high. Nonetheless, tubercular and other bacteria were becoming more and more resistant to certain antibiotics. In other words they were not an effective means of treating these illnesses.

Although he did not want to dramatise matters among his colleagues, Professor Heinrich Herzog of Basle University felt obliged to tell his colleagues that they had a duty to their patients to watch for the early stages of chronic bronchitis and to use every means to prevent it. He made this point in the course of a clinical demonstration and television projection in the auditorium.

Cancer kills 1,650 children every year

(the connective tissue) as well as to leukemia.

In the cases of tumours, the chances of a cure vacillate between 20 and 80 per cent — at the time of diagnosis it is impossible to tell whether the child will die or whether he can be saved. But the Frankfurt doctor points out that there are "no malignant illnesses which cannot be treated."

The better recovery chances of children compared to adults can be seen most graphically in the case of leukemia. Less than five per cent of older patients survive for more than eight years, whereas in the case of children the corresponding figure is 30 to 35 per cent.

In the case of acute lymphatic leuke-

It was in his opinion often the fault of doctors that patients had to suffer from this serious and dangerous illness. He said they could decide for themselves what was worse: lung cancer or chronic bronchitis.

According to Dr Herzog the incidence of lung cancer and of chronic bronchitis is increasing. There was one case common to both — smoking. The statistical curves of both illnesses and of cigarette turnover ran parallel.

Air pollution at work and the increasing pollution of the environment by chemicals were a contributory factor in illnesses. But it was evident that cigarette smoking made the situation worse. Every second smoker over forty suffered from chronic bronchitis whereas among non-smokers in the same age-group the figure was one in six.

Chronic bronchitis was more likely to occur if the patient had frequently suffered from throat and nose infections, if there was inborn immunity weakness or disorders in the composition of bronchial mucus. Defects in secretion and the natural ageing process were also factors.

Five times more men get chronic bronchitis than women. The reason for this is not yet known, but it might be a result of hormonal factors.

The Basle lung specialist pointed out that a patient can be said to be suffering from chronic bronchitis if he had coughing and expectoration fits daily for three months in the course of two successive years. This was the criterion established by the World Health Organisation.

Doctors encountered two kinds of chronic bronchitis — the emphysemic type gasping for breath with only slight expectoration and the cyanose type gasping and suffering from lack of oxygen, with a long history of coughing and a lot of expectoration.

This did not, however, mean any difference in treatment. Dr Herzog suggested the following method: first, the elimination of damaging influences, in particular cigarette smoking; freeing the lungs of bronchial mucus by inhalation; touching the chest with the chin, breathing exercises and the use of medicines to reduce swelling of the mucus membranes and to dissolve secretions, as well as the use of bronchial plasmas.

Bronchitis who suffered from bacterial nose and throat infections ought to have antibiotics prescribed as well. They should keep them handy and as soon as they felt an infection coming on they should take them to prevent the infection getting on to the lungs.

Dieter Dietrich
(Der Tagespiegel, 23 July 1977)

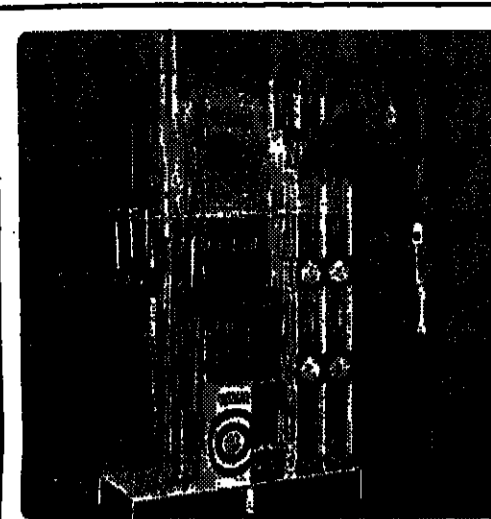
mia, which is by far the most common form of this disease among children, the recovery rate under optimal conditions could be increased to 60 per cent.

Before this could be done, however, eight tumour centres would have to be set up in this country.

Dr Kornhuber stressed that a disease as serious as cancer where therapy was so costly meant that centralisation was essential if optimal treatment was to be given.

Up to now only a third of all children suffering from cancer have been treated in clinics which dealt with less than five leukemia or tumour cases per year.

In-hospital treatment only lasts for the first few weeks. The children then become out-patients and this therapy lasts two to two and a half years as a rule. During this treatment, children are given so-called anti-metabolites, drugs which prevent cell-splitting.
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 20 July 1977)



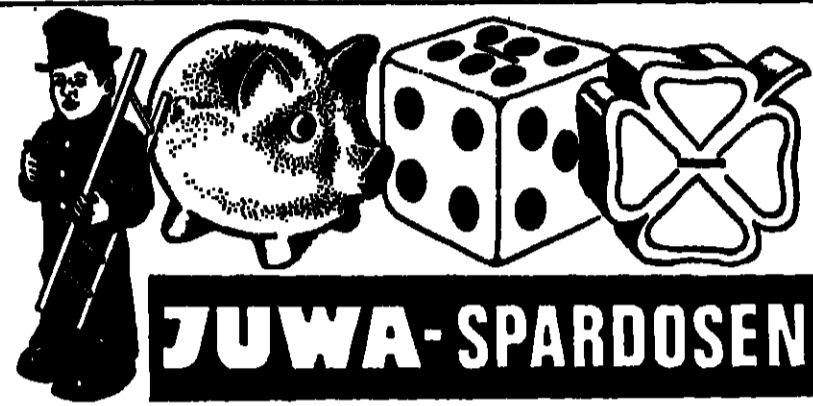
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